

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6096

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: LINK BETWEEN PHASES: REVIEW PROCEDURE

REF: A) USNATO 3061; B) USNATO 2639

1. SPC ON JUNE 4 APPROVED FOLLOWING DUTCH TEXT AS GUIDANCE TO AHG ON WITHDRAWAL PROVISION: "THE ANSWER IS AFFIRMATIVE TO AHG QUESTION OF WHETHER THE "APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS" MENTIONED IN SECTION V OF THE LINK GUIDANCE IMPLY, INTER ALIA, THAT WITHDRAWAL COULD BE A POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF A REVIEW." BELGIUM WHICH ALONG WITH THE NETHERLANDS HAD OPPOSED THE ORIGINAL, TWO PART DRAFT GUIDANCE (REF A), ACCEPTED THIS TEXT WITHOUT CHANGE.

2. US REP ASKED, IN LIGHT OF THE NEW GUIDANCE, WHETHER THE SPC WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO THE SECOND PART OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT GUIDANCE, OR WHETHER THE NEW GUIDANCE REALLY TELESOPED THE TWO PARTS FOR A TOTAL ANSWER.

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3. NETHERLANDS REP CONSIDERED THE NEW GUIDANCE A TOTAL ANSWER. HE THOUGHT THE SECOND PART OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT GUIDANCE WAS OBSCURE, AND BOTH PARTS INVOLVED TACTICS, WHICH WERE VIENNA'S PREROGATIVE. HOW AHG USES THE NEW GUIDANCE WITH WP IS TACTICAL

QUESTION, AND HE HOPED AHG WOULD NOT NEED TO COME BACK TO NATO ON THIS ISSUE.

4. BELGIAN REP SAID HIS COUNTRY'S PROBLEM CAME FROM DISTINCTION IT MADE BETWEEN REVIEW PROCEDURES AND WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES. DUTCH TEXT MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE REVIEW CLAUSE DID NOT LEAD PRIMARILY TO WITHDRAWAL, AND IMPLIED THERE WOULD BE OTHER ASPECTS OF REVIEW CLAUSE WHICH PARTIES TO AGREEMENT MUST EXHAUST PRIOR TO WITHDRAWAL.

5. US REP SAID THE REMAINING MATTERS FOR LATER SPC WORK ARE, THEREFORE, ASPECTS OF THE REVIEW CLAUSE OTHER THAN WITHDRAWAL; RE WITHDRAWAL, SPC HAS GIVEN AHG ALL IT NEEDS, AND IT CAN SAY IN PRINCIPLE USSR CAN WITHDRAW FROM AGREEMENT. BELGIAN REP HESITATED AT THIS CONCLUSION, CLAIMING THAT CLEAR WESTERN STATEMENT OF SOVIET RIGHT TO WITHDRAW FROM AGREEMENT WOULD ENABLE SOVIETS TO PUT GREAT PRESSURE ON WESTERN EUROPEANS IN PHASE II. UK REP OBSERVED THAT IF AHG FEELS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SOVIET RIGHT TO WITHDRAW IS TACTICAL MATTER, AHG WILL DECIDE, BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS. OTHERWISE AHG WILL COME BACK TO NATO.

6. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES LANGUAGE AGREED BY NAC MAY 14, COUPLED WITH INTERPRETATION IN FIRST PARA OF THIS MESSAGE, HAS GIVEN AHG BROAD TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY IN PRESENTING WITHDRAWAL CLAUSE TO WP. BELGIUM SEEMS AT THIS POINT THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH MIGHT REQUEST FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM NATO.RUMSFELD

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